

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A seasoning processing system, comprising:

dispersing means that disperses from a dispersing mouth powdered seasoning to be adhered to supplied intermediate articles, said dispersing means comprising first electrical charging means that electrically charges said powdered seasoning; and

packaging means that forms a tubular shaped packaging material such that the dispersing mouth is provided inside the tubular shaped packaging material, and packages the tubular shaped packaging material into a packaged bag such that the seasoned articles to which said powdered seasoning has been adhered are inside the packaged bag, the packaging means comprising a transverse sealing mechanism having a pair of sealing jaws that pinch and weld said tubular shaped packaging material, and an electrical charging apparatus connected to a high voltage power supply that forms an electric field between said pair of sealing jaws and electrically charges said tubular shaped packaging material with a prescribed polarity;

~~wherein said dispersing means is configured to disperse said powdered seasoning so as to adhere to the intermediate articles and form the seasoned articles prior to the seasoned articles entering the portion of the tubular shaped packaging material that will form the next packaged bag;~~

wherein said powdered seasoning and said packaging material are electrically charged with the same polarity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The seasoning processing system as recited in Claim 1, wherein

said packaging means ~~has~~ comprises:

a former that tubularly bends a strip packaging material; and

longitudinal sealing means that welds overlapped edge parts of the packaging material tubularly bent by said former; ~~and~~

said transverse sealing means ~~that~~ welds in a transverse direction and forms in a bag shape said tubular packaging material while moving together with said tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position; and

said dispersing mouth is provided and arranged at a position on an upstream side of said upstream position where said transverse sealing means begins welding.

4. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing system as recited in Claim 3, wherein

said dispersing means includes a substitute gas passageway that introduces substitute gas inside the tubular shaped packaging material and is provided inside said former, such that said substitute gas passageway serves as a passageway for said powdered seasoning of said dispersing means; and

said dispersing mouth also includes a downstream side opening of said substitute gas passageway.

5. (Currently Amended) The seasoning processing system as recited in Claim 1, wherein

said packaging means comprises:

a former that tubularly bends a strip packaging material; and

longitudinal sealing means that welds overlapped edge parts of the packaging material tubularly bent by said former; ~~and~~

said transverse sealing means ~~that~~ welds in the transverse direction and forms in a bag shape said tubular packaging material while moving together with said tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position; and

said seasoning processing system further comprises ~~comprising~~; transferring means that causes said dispersing mouth to penetrate between said upstream position and said downstream position, and, when said transverse sealing means is at said upstream position, to withdraw said dispersing mouth to a position on an upstream side of said upstream position.

6. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing system as recited in Claim 2, wherein

said dispersing means disperses the powdered seasoning without stopping the operation of said transverse sealing means.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

shaking means that grasps and shakes the packaged bag containing said seasoned articles.

9. (Currently Amended) A seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system adapted to receive a supply of intermediate articles and a supply of strip packaging material, and discharge a packaged bag containing seasoned articles, said seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system comprising:

a seasoning dispersion apparatus comprising:

a seasoning feeder containing seasoning to be applied to the intermediate articles, ~~and~~

a conduit having a dispersing mouth from which the seasoning is dispersed to be adhered to the intermediate articles; and

an electrostatic gun that electrically charges said powdered seasoning;

and

a bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus comprising:

a longitudinal sealing mechanism that creates a tubular shaped packaging material from the strip packaging material, said dispersing mouth of said conduit being disposed inside the tubular shaped packaging material, and

a transverse sealing mechanism that welds said tubular shaped packaging material in a transverse direction and forms said tubular packaging material into a packaged bag that contains the seasoned articles, said transverse sealing mechanism comprising a pair of sealing jaws that pinch and weld said tubular shaped packaging material, and an electrical charging apparatus connected to a high voltage power supply that forms an electric field between said pair of sealing jaws and electrically charges said packaging material with a prescribed polarity;

~~wherein said seasoning dispersion apparatus is configured to disperse the seasoning so as to adhere to the intermediate articles and form the seasoned articles prior to the seasoned articles entering the portion of the tubular shaped packaging material that will form the next packaged bag~~

wherein said powdered seasoning and said packaging material are electrically charged with the same polarity.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system as recited in Claim 9, wherein

said transverse sealing mechanism welds said tubular shaped packaging material in a transverse direction while moving together with said tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position, and

said dispersing mouth is provided and arranged at a position on an upstream side of said upstream position where said transverse sealing mechanism begins welding.

12. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system as recited in Claim 11, wherein

said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus includes a former that tubularly bends a strip packaging material, and

said conduit includes a substitute gas passageway that introduces substitute gas inside the tubular shaped packaging material and is provided inside said former, said dispersing mouse including a downstream side opening of said substitute gas passageway.

13. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system as recited in Claim 9, wherein

said transverse sealing mechanism welds said tubular shaped packaging material in a transverse direction while moving together with said tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position, and

said seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system further includes a lift mechanism that moves the dispersing mouth of the seasoning dispersion apparatus along a direction of the tubular shaped packaging material, such that when said transverse sealing mechanism is at said upstream position, said dispersing mouth is withdrawn to a position that is on an upstream side of said upstream position.

14. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system as recited in Claim 9, wherein

said seasoning dispersion apparatus disperses the powdered seasoning without stopping the operation of said transverse sealing mechanism.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The seasoning processing and bag manufacturing and packaging system as recited in Claim 9, further comprising:

shaking means that grasps and shakes the packaged bag containing said seasoned articles.